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ENG 4950-001: Literary History and Bibliography

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English 4950: Literary History and Bibliography
fall 1998

Instructor: Richard Sylvia
Office: 321 Coleman
Office Hours: Tue./Thurs. 2:00 - 3:00 pm; and by appt.
Telephone: 581-6292; 348-7890
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Texts: Abrams, et al., The Norton Anthology of English Lit., 6th ed., 2 vol.
Bradley, et al., The American Tradition in Lit., 6th ed., 2 vol.

Course Goals and Objectives: Required of all English majors, this course is an overview of the major developments in English and American Literature, from its beginnings to the present century. It is also an opportunity to demonstrate the reading, writing, and research skills you have developed as an English major during the last few years. Class time will be devoted to my occasional lectures, frequent discussions of assigned materials, and - during the second half of the semester -- presentations by class members. We will move at a fast pace through difficult material, so be prepared to work hard. In order to succeed in the course you must keep up with the reading, take notes regularly, study for exams, and prepare writing assignments carefully.

Course Requirements and Grading:
careful preparation of the readings as assigned
regular class participation
a semester-long research project - 25%
(see handout for details; consultation required)
a mid-term examination - 25%
a final examination - 25%
a collaborative classroom presentation - 25%
(see handout for details; consultation recommended)

Tentative Schedule

Old English Period (500-1066)

Aug. 25: course introduction
Aug. 27: period background lecture; Beowulf
Sept. 1: Beowulf
Sept. 3: Beowulf; "The Dream of the Rood"; "The Wanderer"

Middle English Period (1066-1500)

Sept. 8: period background lecture; Popular Ballads: "Lord Randall," "Barbara Allan," "Sir Patrick Spens," "A Gest of Robyn Hode"; Piers Plowman 254-273

Sept. 10: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Sept. 15: Chaucer, "The Miller's Prologue and Tale"

Sept. 17: Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe

Sept. 22: Everyman

The Renaissance (1500-1660)

Sept. 24: period background lecture; Marlowe, The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus; **research project proposal due**

Sept. 29: Shakespeare, 1 Henry IV

Oct. 1: Spenser, The Faerie Queene (through Bk I Canto 1, 514-541)

Oct. 6: selected love sonnets from Wyatt, Surrey, Sidney, Spenser, and Shakespeare

Oct. 8: Donne, "The Flea," "Going to Bed," "Good Friday, 1613"; Jonson, "Inviting a Friend to Dinner," "To Penshurst," "Song: To Celia"

Oct. 13: Milton, Paradise Lost I, II

Oct. 15: PL IV, IX

Oct. 20: **mid-term examination**

Oct. 22, 27, 29: **conferences (no class meeting); research project bibliography due**

Early American Literature (1620-1800)

Nov. 3: collaborative presentation; reading to be assigned

Nov. 5: [Edwards, Personal Narrative; Franklin, The Autobiography]

The Restoration and Eighteenth Century (1660-1789)

Nov. 10: collaborative presentation; reading to be assigned

Nov. 12: [Pope, The Rape of the Lock]

The Romantic Period (1780-1830)

Nov. 17: collaborative presentation; reading to be assigned

Nov. 19: [Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey"]

Nov. 24, 26: Thanksgiving Recess

The Victorian Period (1830-1901)

Dec. 1: collaborative presentation; reading to be assigned

Dec. 3: [Tennyson, "Mariana," "The Lady of Shalott," "Ulysses," "Tithonus"]

American Literature (1800-1900)

Dec. 8: collaborative presentation; reading to be assigned
research project due

Dec. 10: [Whitman, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"; Dickinson, "There's a certain slant of light," "After great pain, a formal feeling comes," "I heard a Fly buzz -- When I died --"]

Dec. 14-18: **Final Exam** (date and time to be announced).

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism - 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary) - has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."